



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/767,162	01/29/2004	Dennis P. Nguyen	OTD-030570-US	4635
27778	7590	02/23/2006	EXAMINER	
COOPER CAMERON CORPORATION			NEUDER, WILLIAM P	
PO BOX 1212			ART UNIT	
HOUSTON, TX 77251-1212			PAPER NUMBER	

3672

DATE MAILED: 02/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/767,162

Applicant(s)

NGUYEN, DENNIS P.

Examiner

William P. Neuder

Art Unit

3672

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 10-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7-9 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 15-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 15 is a system claim. This claim is considered an apparatus claim, as a system claim is not a recognized class of invention. If this claim were written as a method claim it would be acceptable except a method claim would then be subject to restriction. Claim 15 is considered improper because one of ordinary skill in the art cannot ascertain what is being claimed. Claim 15 claims a first hanger and a second hanger to be used in place of the first hanger if the casing becomes stuck. It is not clear if applicant is claiming the first hanger or the second hanger. Applicant is trying to claim both hangers, but since there is no disclosure that both hangers can be used at the same time this is an improper claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-6 and 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Stephen et al 5327965.

Stephen discloses a wellhead casing hanger having a hanger body 25 having an axial bore. The hanger body has a stepped outer shoulder 57 configured to receive load segments 61. The load segments are moveable between a retracted position allowing the assembly to pass through a first minimum bore and an extended position wherein the hanger is suspended on the load segments. Actuation assembly 35 engages shoulders 19 in the wellhead to cause segments 61 to expand. The hanger body includes a bowl 29 for receiving slips 31. The slips are coaxially moveable with respect to the hanger body. As to claim 15, as far as this claim is understood, the first hanger does not have to be present. Stephen discloses the second type hanger. As to claims 2 and 16, the bowl section can be formed from two pieces. As to claims 3 and 17, the slips include teeth on the inner and outer surface. As to claims 4 and 18, the interior teeth on the slips are beveled. As to claims 5 and 19, the outer teeth remain perpendicular to the hanger bowl when the slip segments are moved radially inward. As to claims 6 and 20, retainer surfaces are provided at the upper end of surface 57 to retain the load segments in engagement with annular groove 15.

Claims 10-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fowler et al 4416472.

Fowler discloses a casing hanger having a hanger body having a bore extending there through. An expandable load ring 105 is carried by a stepped shoulder formed on the hanger body. The expandable load ring is moveable from a first contracted position

allowing the assembly to pass a minimum bore and a second expanded position so that the assembly is suspended on the load ring when it is in contact with groove 68 formed in the wellhead housing. Actuation ring 104 extends the load ring when the actuation ring engages a groove in the housing at 65. As to claims 15-28, in as far as these claims are understood, claim 15 does not require more than the first type hanger that is set forth in claim 10 and described above. The second type of hanger does not have to be present to meet claim 15. Claims 16-28 all further limit the second type of hanger that does not have to be present. As to claim 11, body has an interior thread at 36 for attachment of casing. As to claim 13, the body has a thread for attachment of a running tool (see col. 8, lines 45-50). As to claim 14, a cylindrical retainer surface is shown at 60.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7-9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William P. Neuder whose telephone number is 571-272-7032. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David J. Bagnell can be reached on 571-272-6999. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



William P Neuder
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3672

W.P.N.